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DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
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Professor J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

We finally resurrected strain XP 104 of Xanthomonas phaseoli and I am airmailing it to you. I can not guarantee that it is in precisely the same genetic state as in 1953 when the bulk of our transformation work was done, but it should be easy for you to get it perking again.

We are continuing with Xanthomonas transformation---mainly in connection with virulence, and particularly from the standpoint of demolishing the idea that there are numerous "species" (which are for all practical purposes merely phytopathogenic varieties). It is my firm conviction that the frequent origin of "new species" in this genus reflects the introduction of new genetic material into an old carcass, perhaps by transformation or transduction, and that this new genetic material might come from the new host plant. In any case, we are working along these lines, somewhat hampered by the current lack of a greenhouse which will be built pretty soon.

Leaving today for Heidelberg where I will work for six months with Richard Kuhn at the Max Planck Institut on the chemical structure of the blue pigment of Corynebacterium insidiosum.

Best regards to Esther and to you.

Most cordially,

M. P. Starr
Associate Professor

MPS/ml